

In the Claims:

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Claim 1 (previously amended). A configuration for ~~separating~~  
~~cavities for~~ sealing or sound-proofing a cavity, comprising:

~~a heat-expansible element constructed as a contoured ring-like~~  
~~plate;~~

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a retaining device ~~to be positioned in a cross sectional~~  
~~region of a cavity, said retaining device~~ having two  
separately produced half-shells, one of said half-shells  
having an inner contour, said half-shells being latched to one  
another using a latching device with said half-shells disposed  
at a distance from one another forming ~~a free gap~~ an  
interspace between said half-shells, ~~and~~ except at said inner  
contour; and

a heat-expansible element constructed as a contoured ring-like  
plate with an inner circumference substantially corresponding  
to said inner contour, said heat-expansible element being  
retained in said ~~free gap between said half shells~~ interspace.

Claim 2 (previously amended). The configuration according to  
claim 1, wherein said half-shells have inner surfaces, and  
said latching device is disposed on said inner surfaces for  
connecting said half-shells.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The configuration according to claim 2, wherein said latching device ~~comprises~~ includes a mushroom-shaped latching element disposed on one of said half-shells and a corresponding latching cylinder disposed on another one of said half-shells.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said heat-expansible element has further material-free spaces in the area ~~next to~~ of said latching device.

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112 ( Claim 5 (currently amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said two half-shells are a first half-shell and a second half-shell ~~half-shells~~, said first half-shell having said inner contour, said second half-shell having a region corresponding to said inner contour, said latching device further comprising a latching opening and a corresponding latching ~~web~~ rib, said latching opening being disposed within said inner contour of said first half-shell and said latching ~~web~~ rib being disposed in said region of said second half-shell, and a mushroom-shaped latching element disposed on said first ~~half-shells~~ half-shell and a corresponding latching cylinder disposed on said second ~~half-shells~~ half-shell.

Claim 6 (previously amended). The configuration according to claim 2, wherein said two half-shells are first and second half-shells, said latching device being formed of a latching cylinder and of a mushroom-shaped latching element, said latching cylinder being disposed on said first half-shell and said mushroom-shaped latching element being integrally formed on said second half-shell.

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Claim 7 (previously amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said latching device is integrally formed on a surface of one of said half-shells for connection to an inner wall of a cavity to be separated off.

Claim 8 (previously amended). The configuration according to claim 2, wherein said latching device is integrally formed on said inner surfaces of said half-shells.

Claim 9 (original). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said half-shells are formed of injection molded plastic.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said expansible shaped element ~~is formed of a material expanding under the influence of heat toward an open side of said gap formed between said half shells~~ has a shape substantially corresponding to said interspace.

Claims 11-14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (new). A configuration for sealing or sound-proofing a cavity having a cross-section, comprising:

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a retaining device to be positioned in the cross-section of the cavity, said retaining device having two separately produced half-shells, one of said half-shells having an inner contour, said half-shells being latched to one another using a latching device with said half-shells disposed at a distance from one another forming an interspace between said half-shells except at said inner contour; and

a heat-expansible element constructed as a contoured ring-like plate with an outer circumference substantially corresponding to the cross-section of the cavity and with an inner circumference substantially corresponding to said inner contour, said heat-expansible element being retained in said interspace.

Claim 16 (new). The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said half-shells have inner surfaces, and said latching device is disposed on said inner surfaces for connecting said half-shells.

Claim 17 (new). The configuration according to claim 16, wherein said latching device includes a mushroom-shaped latching element disposed on one of said half-shells and a corresponding latching cylinder disposed on another one of said half-shells.

Claim 18 (new). The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said heat-expansible element has further material-free spaces in the area of said latching device.

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Claim 19 (new). The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said two half-shells are a first half-shell and a second half-shell, said first half-shell having said inner contour, said second half-shell having a region corresponding to said inner contour, (said latching device further comprising a latching opening and a corresponding latching rib) said latching opening being disposed within said inner contour of said first half-shell and said latching rib being disposed in said region of said second half-shell, and a mushroom-shaped latching element disposed on said first half-shell and a corresponding latching cylinder disposed on said second half-shell.

Claim 20 (new). The configuration according to claim 16, wherein said two half-shells are first and second half-shells, said latching device being formed of a latching cylinder and

of a mushroom-shaped latching element, said latching cylinder being disposed on said first half-shell and said mushroom-shaped latching element being integrally formed on said second half-shell.

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Claim 21 (new). The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said latching device is integrally formed on a surface of one of said half-shells for connection to an inner wall of a cavity to be separated off.

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Claim 22 (new). The configuration according to claim 16, wherein said latching device is integrally formed on said inner surfaces of said half-shells.

Claim 23 (new). The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said half-shells are formed of injection molded plastic.

Claim 24 (new). The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said expansible shaped element has a shape substantially corresponding to said interspace.

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